

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/056248 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B25J 15/10**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/005167

(22) International Filing Date: 9 December 2004 (09.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0328887.5 12 December 2003 (12.12.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **GLAXO GROUP LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Glaxo Wellcome House, Berkeley Avenue, Greenford Middlesex UB6 0NN (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **STANLEY, Alan, Leslie** [GB/GB]; GlaxoSmithKline, New Frontiers Science Park South, Third Avenue, Harlow Essex CM19 5AW (GB). **YOUNG, Kenneth, William** [GB/GB]; Warwick Manufacturing Group, International Manufacturing Centre, The University of Warwick, Coventry Warwickshire

CV4 7AL (GB). **ZAPIAIN BAZDRESCH, Rodrigo** [MX/GB]; Warwick Manufacturing Group, International Manufacturing Centre, The University of Warwick, Coventry Warwickshire CV4 7AL (GB).

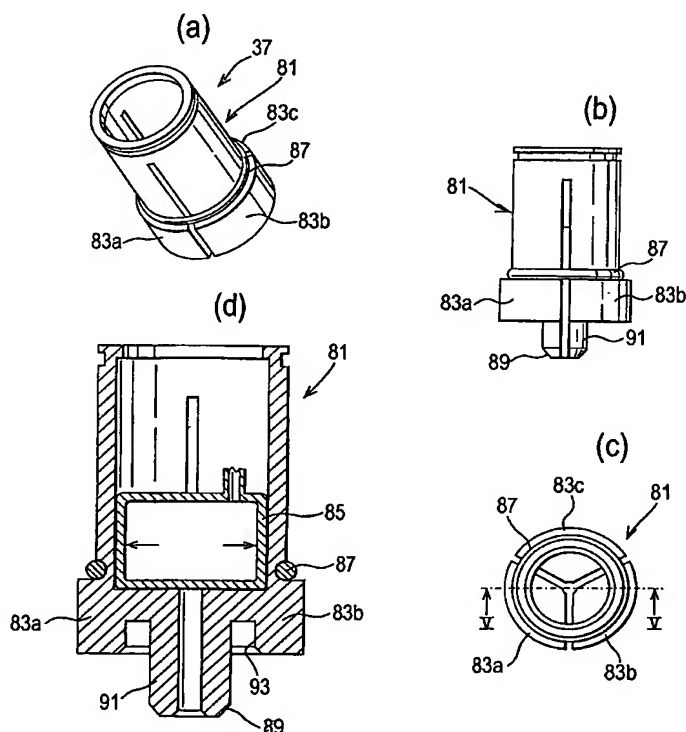
(74) Agent: **WALKER, Ralph, Francis**; GlaxoSmithKline, Corporate Intellectual Property (CN925.1), 980 Great West Road, Brentford Middlesex TW8 9GS (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DU, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OBJECT HOLDING TOOL AND OBJECT SUPPORTING UNIT



(57) Abstract: A first aspect of the invention provides an object holding tool for holding objects (OB), comprising a gripping unit which is operable between a contracted configuration to grip and release objects (OB) in transporting the same, wherein the gripping unit defines a first, outwardly-facing gripping surface (91) which, with the gripping unit in an expanded configuration, acts to grip an inner peripheral surface of an object (OB) of one kind, and a second, inwardly-facing gripping surface (93) which, with the gripping unit in a contracted configuration, acts to grip an outer peripheral surface of an object (OB) of another kind. A second aspect of the invention provides an object supporting unit for supporting an object (OB), comprising a lower base member (105), and an upper supporting body member (109) for supporting an object (OB), wherein the body member (109) includes first and second concentric recesses (111, 113), each configured to receive an object (OB) of one of two different kinds and having different depths such that upper ends of the two different kinds of object (OB) are at the same height, or at substantially the same height, when supported in the respective recesses (111, 113).



ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

- *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*